

President/Archivist/Museum Director Report. PFHS Annual Meeting. September 25, 2022. Jane Nicoll.

Welcome. Thank you for attending our annual meeting and election of board members. We hope you enjoy the two programs being offered today, "Park Forest Promotional Films" here in person and "Park Forest A Special Place to Live" being posted on YouTube today.

Our Program year continued to be changed by COVID-19. Our annual meeting last September was in person. The only other meeting we held in person was the May meeting as a Donor and volunteer appreciation.

We continue to find that our YouTube programs are watched by many more people than would attend our programs in person. Four Women Pioneers in September 2020-218, Edwin Fizer, Montfort Point Marines-Audio interview, November-34 views, Early Integration interview with Robert Dinerstein-173 views, and Early Integration Roundtable discussion on the role of the Commission on Human Relations-182 views-both release for February 2021 program. The May 2021 program aired was, The Park Forest Aqua Center, 1954-1985, an oral history interview with Kris Martin and John Joyce-336 views. The 2020 Hall of Fame was finally done in October 2020 as a compilation of videotaped presentation-252 views. Hall of Fame 2021 was just planned as a videotaped program-184 views, as was the Hall of Fame 2022-72 views so far. An earlier posting, "Park Forest Historical Society" a PowerPoint presentation, now has 179 views. "Reflections and Accomplishments of African Americans" filmed in February 1999 and aired in February 2022 has 38 views. "Pioneer Women" (March 21, 2004) launched 10 months ago has 173 views. A video tour of the museum has 194 views. A program that is not ours, but brings attention to Park Forest, is "Park Forest Exhibit at the Smithsonian, which over 7 years has received 3.7 thousand views.

We urge all our members to Subscribe to our YouTube channel. We only have 38 subscribers, which means that many watching individual programs are not clicking on "Subscribe". There are benefits to our having more.

We feel strongly that it fits our mission to educate about and promote Park Forest history, and that we are reaching a large audience via YouTube, safely, so we plan for our program year this year will also be YouTube presentations of past interviews and programs, possibly with some live programs. Many people living here now, or our followers from around the country never had the chance to see many of these past programs. We are making people not only aware of Park Forest's history, but also of the Society's history of documenting the past.

If anyone is unable to find a way to view YouTube programming, please contact me, and we can arrange a time for you to watch YouTube in our office. You would need to be vaccinated and masked to be in the office.

Hall of Fame nomination forms will appear by mid-October. Hall of Fame is scheduled for April 16, 2023, and we plan for it to be in-person. Only time will tell if that will be a public program or another video presentation.

When you receive our annual fund appeal, please keep in mind that we have not been able to hold a fundraising event. We received wonderful, generous donations last year along with generous memberships.

The museum has been open since August 2020 and we have been covering hours pretty well, but with some docents covering two dates per month. We have two new docents, but I do have one docent still unavailable due to a family health crisis and one who will snowbird by early December to May. Please consider volunteering.

The Museum is decorated with 1950s Halloween decorations and is ready for masked visitors to come see it. You all have the chance to see it today. Whereas I have one person who thinks our visitor count is down because we ask for masks, when I passed out fliers at the Aqua Center this summer, a number of people said they would come because our asking for masks would be a deciding factor. They would not consider it if we did NOT ask for masks.

We thank Mayor Jon Vanderbilt, and Village Manager Tom Mick, along with the Village Board of Trustees for awarding us with a tenth Donor Match Grant for 2022-2023. Thank you to everyone who has helped us meet the match in previous years and we hope we can count on you again this year. We also thank the Village of Park Forest for allowing us photocopy services for our fliers and brochures. We are not allowed in the copy room now, and must rely on the help of Administrative Assistants, Angela Thurston to help Elizabeth Garza get things to us.. Fall is "copy heavy" for us. They have been gracious and helpful.

We thank the Library Board for once again donating to us half the annual rent for the Archive Office space.

We also thank St. Mary's and their staff for allowing us copying privileges at the church, for working with us in so many ways to make us comfortable to call St. Mary's home to the museum and Archive Office.

The board has decided to purchase a stronger air conditioner for the Archive Office. We are still waiting for the maintenance man from St. Liborious, who now comes to St. Mary's two mornings a week, to take out the 2002 unit at the back of the museum and put the 2012 in its place to be the "extra" AC unit.

I not in the archive much during the summer, due to the AC unit not staying on in the temperatures above 85 or so. I am back in with two volunteers, one I hope to lure back, and one temporary helper. We hope do data entry or photocopying or labeling and filing. Chris Long and Alice Wasney and I typed thank you letters this year. Alice Wasney will work into December accessioning the "GI Stories from a GI Town" 94 oral history tapes and the transcripts done already. And we need help to get our mailings out. This is a job which can be done in your own home and parts of the work shared by a few.

Society funds went to paying a professional photographer and videographer to go through and around Rich East with us in May 2020. I scanned a number of our early photographs of the school which are being added to his footage and photos to produce a video which became available for purchase in November 2021. The project cost \$1300 so we hope to have good sales on it. We did sell enough to pay for the initial investment, and have ordered more copies. If not, we will still have done a valuable deed

by documenting the school. We have just had some thumb drives of the video made specifically to sell at the Class of 1961 Reunion in October. We will have some more made for sale at the museum if the thumb drives sell.

We paid in the vicinity of \$400 to \$600 for Wendy Heise of Wish Photography and Video to accompany Jane to photograph Faith United Protestant Church before it closed and to photograph St. Irenaeus Catholic Church before it closed. No video was taken and no video production is planned. The Board felt we should have our own photographs of both buildings on hand, under our ownership.

We plan to pay MediaBurn Archives in Chicago to digitize more ¾" videos for us, and to archivally copy the videos we hope to show today. The previous three and the external drive to store them on cost about \$300. We have some short 16 mm and 8mm film reels to be digitized, but that is extremely expensive. We have located another Archive in Chicago which will do that, archivally.

Thank you to all of our current board members who have met this year in person. Chris Janota is now helping with the website and loading and launching the YouTube programs, along with his vice-presidential duties. Thank you to our officers, Judith McGee, Secretary, Kerry Adams, Treasurer and Chris Janota, Vice-President.

I am entering my 38th year serving on the Board, my 42nd year of working on the Archive, and my 24th year as volunteer Museum Director. Soon it will have been enough.

We hope to have you all join us for our YouTube and/or in-person programs this year and to see you visit the museum. Thank you all for your continuing support. We would not survive without your memberships, donations, museum visits and purchases, because without the Village's Donor Match program, we would not still be here.

As I write this, the incoming President is Chris Janota and I am now Vice-President. Please give Chris all the support you have given me in my years as President.

May you all stay safe and healthy as we navigate another very different year in the history of our country.

